

District IV Commissioner Romney Rogers



New No-Panhandling Ordinance in the Works – The City Commission is moving forward to adopt a no-panhandling ordinance. The proposal would establish no-panhandling zones and ban “aggressive” panhandling citywide. Begging, soliciting, and panhandling would be prohibited in designated areas. Violations would be classified as misdemeanors, carrying a \$500 fine and/or 60 days in jail. As the proposed ordinance becomes final, I will provide more details, especially on what areas are included in the “designated” no-panhandling zones. For related information on this issue, please see <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/give/index.htm>.

New Botanical Gardens at Stranahan Park – Thanks to everyone who helped with the planting on March 31st. I think you’ll agree, the park is now a much more inviting and attractive place for residents and visitors alike. Additionally, I would like to acknowledge and extend sincere thanks to Ivy Realty and One East Broward Boulevard for their recent pledge to contribute \$25,000 to the Stranahan Park Revitalization Plan.

Gene’s Green Scene – Everyone should check out our City Forester Gene Dempsey’s new blog on the City’s website. It’s called “Gene’s Green Scene” and can be found at <http://fortlauderdaleforester.blogspot.com>. Gene offers easy tips for saving gas, caring for your lawn, and other interesting topics and suggestions.

May is National Historic Preservation Month! The City’s First Annual Historic Preservation Commendation Awards will be presented on Thursday, May 24th at 6:00 PM, at the Broward County Historical Commission (the West Side School building), 301 Harmon Avenue. The awards will honor outstanding historic preservation achievements by individuals, students, organizations, and businesses. Nominations are due by April 20th and the applications can be downloaded from the City’s home page. In addition, the City’s Historic Design Guidelines are now being finalized, based on three public workshops with the City’s Historic Preservation Board, City staff, and others in the community.

Downtown Fort Lauderdale Transportation Management Association (TMA) – Many of you know that in 2009, I was appointed by the City Commission to serve on the TMA, and I continue to serve, along with District I Commissioner, Bruce Roberts. I am pleased to report that the Sun Trolley is on track to move over 300,000 passengers this year. And, across all five routes, we have a 50 percent increase in ridership compared to this time last year. Our free mobile app can now be downloaded from iTunes, the Apple Store, or Android. For more on the Sun Trolley, see <http://www.suntrolley.com>.

Strategic Plan – Recently, I met with the City Manager and our Community Building Leadership Team to assess progress on the City’s Strategic Plan. Based on the mission, “We Build Community,” the plan focuses on five Cylinders of Excellence: Business Development, Infrastructure, Neighborhood Enhancement, Public Places, and Public Safety. More than 100 City employees are involved. In the coming months, goals and objectives will be finalized, and benchmarks, targets, and performance measures will be established to gauge how well the goals and objectives are being met. Staff is working with the Visioning Committee to ensure that the Strategic Plan mirrors community priorities.

Full Sails in Fort Lauderdale – To learn more about this temporary public art project and how it benefits local artists, as well as City recreational programs, see <http://www.fullsailsinfortlauderdale.com>.

Fort Lauderdale Strikers – There are a number of soccer games scheduled now through Fall 2012 for you, your friends and family to enjoy. Visit <http://www.strikers.com> for details.

Reminder – You can call the City’s **24-Hour Customer Service Center** at **954-828-8000** to report City service-related emergencies. For non-emergencies, please see <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/customerservice/index.htm>.

Office of Neighbor Support – Under the leadership of the City Manager, this office provides additional outreach to and enhanced services for our neighbors. For staff contacts and other information, go to <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/neighborsupport>.

Pre-Agenda Meetings – My neighborhood meetings are always on the Monday before a Commission Meeting (unless that Monday is a City holiday). The agenda is reviewed, as well as any other topics you would like to discuss. The first Monday of the month is in the 8th Floor Cafeteria at City Hall, 100 North Andrews Avenue. On the third Monday, we meet in the 8th Floor Conference Room, also at City Hall. Meetings begin at 5:30 p.m. Please call the office if you have any questions.

Office Contact: Please contact MJ Matthews at 954-828-5028 (e-mail: mmatthews@fortlauderdale.gov), for an office appointment, or if you would like me to attend an upcoming neighborhood meeting.